

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A breast image obtaining method for use with a solid-state detector accommodated in a housing, said detector being capable of recording image information carried by radioactive rays as an electrostatic latent image when irradiated with said rays, and generating an electric current in proportion to said electrostatic latent image when scanned with reading light, said method comprising the steps of:

imaging a breast image of a subject by irradiating the radioactive rays passed through the breast on said solid-state detector; and

reading out said breast image by mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light, and generating said electric current,

wherein said imaging is performed after said detector is moved inside the housing to a place close to the chest wall of the subject, and said reading is performed after said detector is moved inside the housing to a place remote from the chest wall of the subject.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): A breast image obtaining apparatus comprising:

a solid-state detector capable of recording image information carried by radioactive rays as an electrostatic latent image when irradiated with said rays, and generating an electric current in proportion to said electrostatic latent image when scanned with reading light;

a reading light scanning means for mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light;

a housing for accommodating said detector, and reading light scanning means; and

a moving means for moving said detector inside the housing in the directions toward and away from the chest wall of a subject,

wherein said apparatus is configured to pick up a breast image by irradiating radioactive rays passed through the breast on said detector at a place close to the chest wall of a subject, and read out said breast image by mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light scanning means, and generating said electric current at a place remote from the chest wall of the subject.

4. (canceled).

5. (new): The breast image obtaining method of claim 1, wherein said detector is moved to the place remote from the chest wall of the subject after imaging said breast image by irradiating of the radioactive rays.

6. (new): The breast image obtaining method of claim 1, wherein reading out said breast image by mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light is performed after said detector has been moved to the place remote from the chest wall of the subject, so that an overrun zone is secured between an inner surface of a side wall of the housing and an end of said detector on a side closest to the subject.

7. (new): The breast image obtaining apparatus of claim 3, wherein said detector is moved to the place remote from the chest wall of the subject after said detector records image information.

8. (new): The breast image obtaining apparatus of claim 3, wherein the read out of said breast image is performed after said detector has been moved to the place remote from the chest wall of the subject, so that an overrun zone is secured between an inner surface of a side wall of said housing and an end of said detector on a side closest to the subject.